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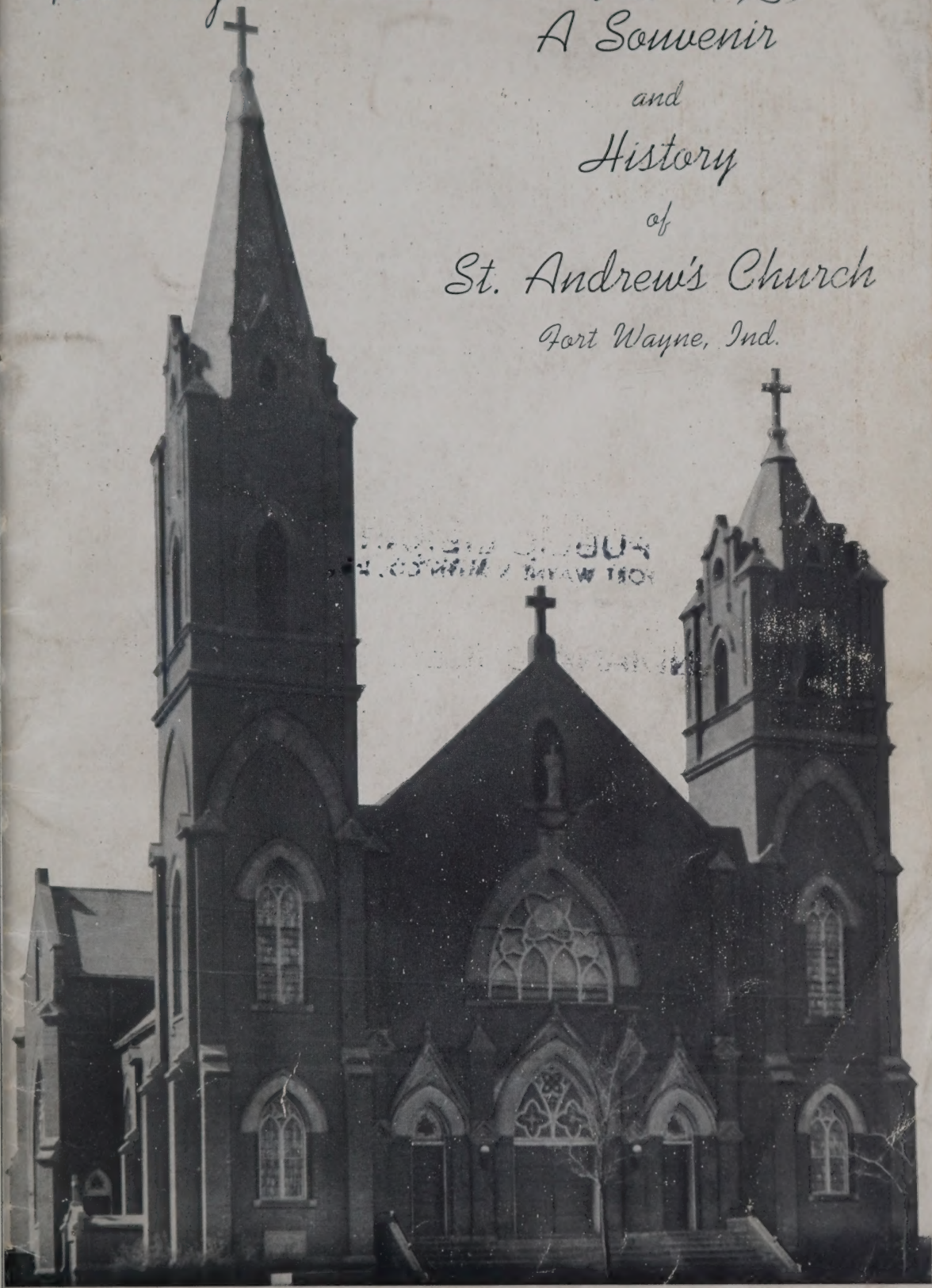
A Souvenir and history of
Saint Andrew's Church, Fort

Fort Wayne Churches. Catholic - 1959

A Souvenir and History of St. Andrew's Church

Fort Wayne, Ind.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, DEDICATED 1911

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HISTORY

OF

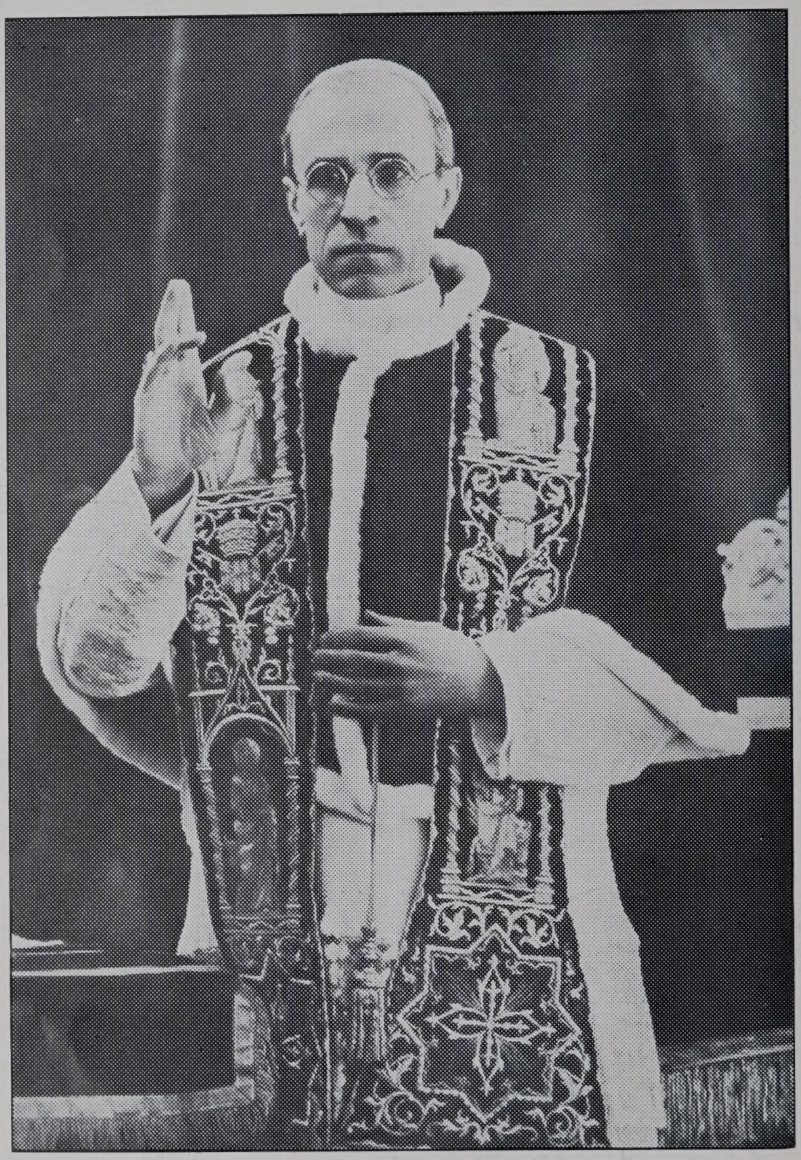
SAINT ANDREW'S CHURCH

FORT WAYNE, IND.

1910 to 1943

Rev. Henry A. Hoerstman
Pastor

Rev. Thomas O. Heilman
Assistant



HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII

MOST REVEREND JOHN FRANCIS NOLL
Bishop of Fort Wayne

REVEREND HENRY A. HOERSTMAN, PASTOR

REVEREND THOMAS O'CONNOR HEILMAN
Assistant Pastor

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, May 16, 1914
Classical Course at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana
Philosophy and Theology at St. Meinrad Major Seminary, St. Meinrad, Indiana
Ordained Priest June 3, 1939
First appointment, St. Andrew's, July 8, 1939

REVEREND GEORGE H. HORSTMAN
Builder and First Pastor of St. Andrew's Church

History of St. Andrew's Catholic Parish
Fort Wayne, Indiana

In the Spring of 1910 Bishop Herman J. Alerding assigned to Rev. Charles Marr, then Assistant at the Cathedral, Fort Wayne, Ind., the task of taking up the census of the Catholic families residing on the East Side of Fort Wayne. The object of the Most Rev. Bishop was to discover if a parish was necessary in that locality. Father Marr found eighty families. The parish was to be formed from those Catholic families who originally were members of the Cathedral and St. Mary's parishes. After the census had been taken the Most Rev. Bishop deemed it expedient that a new parish should be organized in the East Section of Fort Wayne. The Apostle St. Andrew was designated as the patron of the new parish. He selected St. Andrew, as no other church in the Diocese has this great Apostle as its patron. In memory also of the Episcopal Consecration of Bishop Alerding which took place on the Feast of St. Andrew, the 20th of November.

The original boundaries of the parish were: On the west side the east side of Anthony Boulevard; on the east side no limits were made; on the north side the Maumee river, and on the South Side the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Gustave Berghoff donated eight lots on Pittsburgh Street to the parish for the location of the church. Later on these lots were traded to Mr. Benjamin Schele for the present location on the corner of New Haven & Lumbard St. One city block now is occupied by the church property. On June 6th, 1910, Bishop Alerding appointed Rev. George Horstman as the first pastor of the new congregation. He was transferred from Sacred Heart Parish in Remington to this new charge. For the first few months Father Horstman resided at the Cathedral Rectory. Then he rented the home of Mrs. Margaret Mathieu, 1924 Roy St., where he offered Holy Mass on week days, and on Sundays he said Holy Mass in the Cathedral. At Mrs. Mathieu's home Father Horstman resided during the building of the school and the rectory. On Sept. 15th, 1910, ground was broken for the first building. It was an imposing brick structure,

ST. ANDREW'S RECTORY, ERECTED 1910

which combined school, auditorium and sisters residence in the rear wing. The cost of this building was $18,000.00. It was called St. Andrew's Academy and was dedicated on June 11, 1911. At about the same time the pastoral residence was completed at a cost of $9,000.00. During the same Spring the basement and foundation of the new church were built, and the corner stone laid on June 17th, 1911. The Rev. John R. Quinlan, Pastor of the Cathedral, preached the English sermon, and the Vicar-General, Right Rev. John H. Oechtering, preached the German sermon. The church was completed, and the dedication took place on Pentecost Sunday, May 26th, 1912. The Most Rev. Bishop Herman J. Alerding officiated. On this occasion the English sermon was preached by Rev. Charles Thiele, Rector of St. Peter's Fort Wayne, and the German sermon was preached by Rev. Eugene Grimm, C.PP.S., Professor of St. Joseph College at Rensselaer, Ind. The cost of the church was $30,500.00. A central heating plant was also erected at the same time at a cost of $4,000.00. The church is of brick and mortar being 122 feet and 6 inches long and 52 feet wide, with two towers in the front. Gothic is the style of architecture. Gault & Gault of Terre Haute were the Architects; Hageman and Irmscher were the Contractors of the entire group of buildings.

St. Andrew's School

St. Andrew's School stands on the corner of New Haven Ave. and St. Andrew's Lane. On the first floor there are four class rooms, 28x35 feet in dimension, well lighted and ventilated with a cloak room attached to each room. The auditorium on the second floor measures 65x70 feet, and the stage on the south side of the hall is 16 feet wide and 30 feet long. This auditorium was regularly used for services until the new church was completed. Later on as the parish increased, the second floor was converted into four more class rooms. The school opened in September, 1911. Four Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration from the motherhouse at Lafayette, Ind., were in charge of the school. The eight grades of the common school were taught. The first Superior of St. Andrew's School was Sister M. Theodora with two other teachers; Sister M. Concordia and Sister M. Modestina.

Sister M. Optata was the house-sister. At the time of the dedication of St. Andrew's church in May, 1912, there were 125 families in the parish. 500 souls and 126 school children. The original debt when all buildings were completed was over $60,000.00.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS IN CHARGE OF ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

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ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, ERECTED 1910

From 1912 To 1918

No parish can function properly unless it has societies and sodalities. hence in June, 1911, St. Joseph School Society for the men was organized, with 130 members. As its name implies they were to help maintain the school, and be the church society for the married men. About the same time were organized the Living Rosary Society for the Married Ladies with a membership of 75; the Children of Mary for the Young Ladies, and the Aloysian Young Men Sodality with 30 members.

Rev. George H. Horstman, the founder and first pastor of St. Andrew's was born in Fort Wayne on November 15th, 1872. From the seventh to the fourteenth year he attended St. Mary's parochial school in Fort Wayne. He made his college course in St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. His seminary course was made at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was ordained in 1897. He was Assistant at St. Mary's Church, Michigan City till August, 1900; pastor of Reynolds and its missions from August, 1900 to July, 1905; pastor at Remington from July 4, 1905, to June 6, 1910; pastor of St. Andrew's, Fort Wayne, from June, 1910, until his death on May 12, 1918.

Father George H. Horstman encumbered by a heavy debt labored hard for the spiritual and temporal advancement of the parish. As the families of the parish were of the poorer class they could not contribute to the extent of meeting all obligations. The debt was large, and the parish during the pastorate of Father George could not meet the annual interest, or pay any on the debt. Worried by these financial troubles, Father Horstman finally broke down under the strain. About two months before the death of Father George, the Most Rev. Bishop appointed Rev. Paul Schmid as temporary Assistant. Father Schmid had to take over the pastoral duties owing to the continued decline of the pastor. Father George Horstman died on Sunday, May 12, 1918, at 9 a. m., just as the children were receiving their First Holy Communion in the parish church. Endowed with many noble attributes of mind and heart, and a pastor of ability, Father George Horstman will ever be remembered with love and esteem by all who came in contact with him, especially by his parishioners. The parish still prays for their first Pastor. May he rest in Peace.

Twenty-five Years' Pastorate Of Rev. Henry A. Hoerstman

Father George Horstman was succeeded by Rev. Henry A. Hoerstman

being appointed by the Most Rev. Bishop Alerding. He became pastor on June 13, 1918. Although the name of the new pastor and the former pastor was similar there was no relationship.

Father Henry A. Hoerstman was born in Delphos, Ohio, on July 26, 1882. His parents moved to Mishawaka, Ind., in 1893. He received his elementary education in St. Joseph's Catholic School, Mishawaka, Ind. He made his classical studies at St. Joseph College Rensselaer, Ind. His philosophy and theology he studied at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis., and Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was ordained by Bishop H. J. Alerding in the Fort Wayne Cathedral on May 22, 1907. His first appointment was as Assistant at St. Joseph's Church, Logansport, Ind., for four years. In 1911 he was appointed pastor of St. Edward's Church, Lowell, Ind. Here he remained for over seven years when Bishop Alerding selected him as the new pastor of St. Andrew's.

The debt on St. Andrew's when Rev. Henry A. Hoerstman took charge was over $80,000.00, including back interest. The situation was made more critical by the fact that the members were all working people with rather meager incomes.

They did not flinch in the least but with faith and confidence they rallied round their new pastor. The pastor introduced into the parish after every Holy Mass the Offering to the Sacred Heart, and one Our Father in honor of the patron of the parish, St. Andrew. He assured the members that a daily prayer to the Most Sacred Heart, and a prayer to their patron would pay the debt. And so it happened. In 1928 the entire debt of the parish was liquidated.

St. Andrew's Commercial School

It was in 1922 that the Pastor Rev. H. A. Hoerstman felt that the time was ripe for the parish to have its own Commercial High School. The two years Commercial Course was inaugurated in order to give those an opportunity to continue their higher Catholic education who felt they were not in a position to complete the regular four year high school course. They were anxious to receive a business course in Catholic environment, and under the tutorage of the capable Sisters of St. Francis who so successfully were teaching and directing St. Andrew's Parochial School. The school was co-educational from its very inception. The first teacher was Sister M. Turibia, who in a most capable manner performed the task of organizing the course. She was succeeded by the following sisters: Sister

ST. ANDREW'S CONVENT, ERECTED 1930

M. Theobalda, Sister M. Ethelfrieda, Sister M. Gregoriana, Sister M. Emanual, Sister M. Josepha and Sister M. Macrina. The first class to graduate was in 1924. There were twelve in this first class. The average annual number of graduates from St. Andrew's Commercial High School was fifteen. During the fifteen years in which St. Andrew's High School existed there were one hundred and seventy-five graduates. In 1937, the Most Rev. Bishop J. F. Noll, launched the project for the erection of a new Central Catholic High School. In compliance with the request of the Most Rev. Bishop, St. Andrew's Commercial High School was closed, so that all the potential high school pupils would attend the new Central Catholic High School.

The New Convent

As the number of pupils in St. Andrew's school doubled and trebled it was necessary to secure larger quarters for the increasing number of sisters. Their original convent was an annex to the school. In 1930, Father Hoerstman, the pastor, at a cost of $27,000.00 built a separate convent which would make a fitting home for the sisters. Each sister has her own room with running hot and cold water; a solarium, study room and offices are provided. A beautiful chapel serves to make the religious life of the sisters convenient, and all living facilities are at hand to contribute to their comfort.

In the same year a new boiler was bought for the central heating plant at a cost of $4,000.00, a double garage on the rectory at $2,000.00, paving of Lumbard Street at $2,500.00. The total cost of the above amounted to $36,000.00. In 1931 the parish assumed $15,000.00 of the Catholic Community debt. The above debt was entirely paid off by the end of 1942. At the present time, 1943, St. Andrew's is free from all debt. We chant a solemn Te Deum, and to the members of St. Andrew's we say: "We thank you, and may God bless you and reward you."

Assistants At St. Andrew's

Rev. Michael A. Campagna, Nov. 14, 1932, to July, 1933. Rev. Leo A. Hoffman from July, 1933, to Nov., 1937. Rev. William Plotzki from Nov., 1937 to July, 1939. The Rev. Thomas O. Heilman, present Assistant since July, 1939.

These four zealous young Assistants have aided much in the material and spiritual upbuilding of the parish.

MOTHER OF GRACE SHRINE

Two young men of St. Andrew's were ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Rev. Andrew C. Mathieu and Rev. Robert J. Hoevel. Charles Buescher at present is a student in St. Meinrad's Seminary, and will be ordained in two years, 1945.

Twelve young ladies of St. Andrew's have entered the Sisterhood. They are the following: Sisters of St. Francis, Sister M. Theodota (Ellen McNulty), Sister M. Teracilla (Anette Murray), Sister M. Josetta (Florence Schoenle), Sister M. Marcelita (Mary Eve Schoenle), Sister M. Clarita (Alma Denzel), Sister M. Alphoncilla (Agnes Kintz).

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ: Sister M. Ruperta, (Helen Lighthall), Sister M. Richilda, deceased, (Alice C. Buescher), Sister M. Fabiola, (Mildred M. Buescher), Sister M. Justine, (Helen E. Buescher), Sister M. Leo, (Bernice B. Buescher). Carmelite Sister, (discalced) Sister M. Elizabeth of the Incarnation, (Ruth M. Buescher).

Societies In The Parish

THE LIVING ROSARY. For the married ladies of the parish. Membership, 226. Present Officers: Mrs. Teresa Nix, President; Mrs. George Vorndran, Vice-president; Mrs. Herbert Adamski, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Carl Schoenle, Financial Secretary; Mrs. Eugene Fletcher, Treasurer.

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY. For the adult men and young men of the parish. Membership 280. Clarence Carteaux, President; Frank Lauer, Vice-president; Harold Weber, Recording Secretary; Theodore Weaver, Financial Secretary; Herbert Leahy, Treasurer.

THE SODALITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN. For the unmarried ladies of the parish. Membership, 106. Helen Hoevel, President; Rosemary Carteaux, Vice-president; Patricia McNulty, Recording Secretary; Rita Meehan, Financial Secretary; Estelle Welling, Treasurer.

LEGION OF MARY. 12 Active Members; 485 Auxiliary Members. Mrs. C. P. Meehan, President; Mrs. Loretta Federspiel, Vice-president; Mrs. Clem Gibson, Secretary; Mrs. Teresa Nix, Treasurer.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION. St. Andrew's chapter of the diocesan CYO. Membership 110. President, Robert Zuber; Vice-president, Patricia McNulty; Secretary, Virginia Bacon; Treasurer, Donna Butler.

GUARDIAN ANGEL SOCIETY. For the children. Membership, 285.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN. The parish unit of the N.C.C.W. is made up of the members of the Living Rosary and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. Present Chairman, Mrs. Jacob Reitz.

ST. ANDREW'S PARENT TEACHERS ORGANIZATION. Membership, 148. President, Mrs. Eugene O'Keefe; Vice-president, Mrs. William Martin; Secretary, Mrs. Clara Clark; Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Schnelker.

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